

# **Climate Resilience for Highway 37 and the San Pablo Baylands: State Route 37-Baylands Group Update**

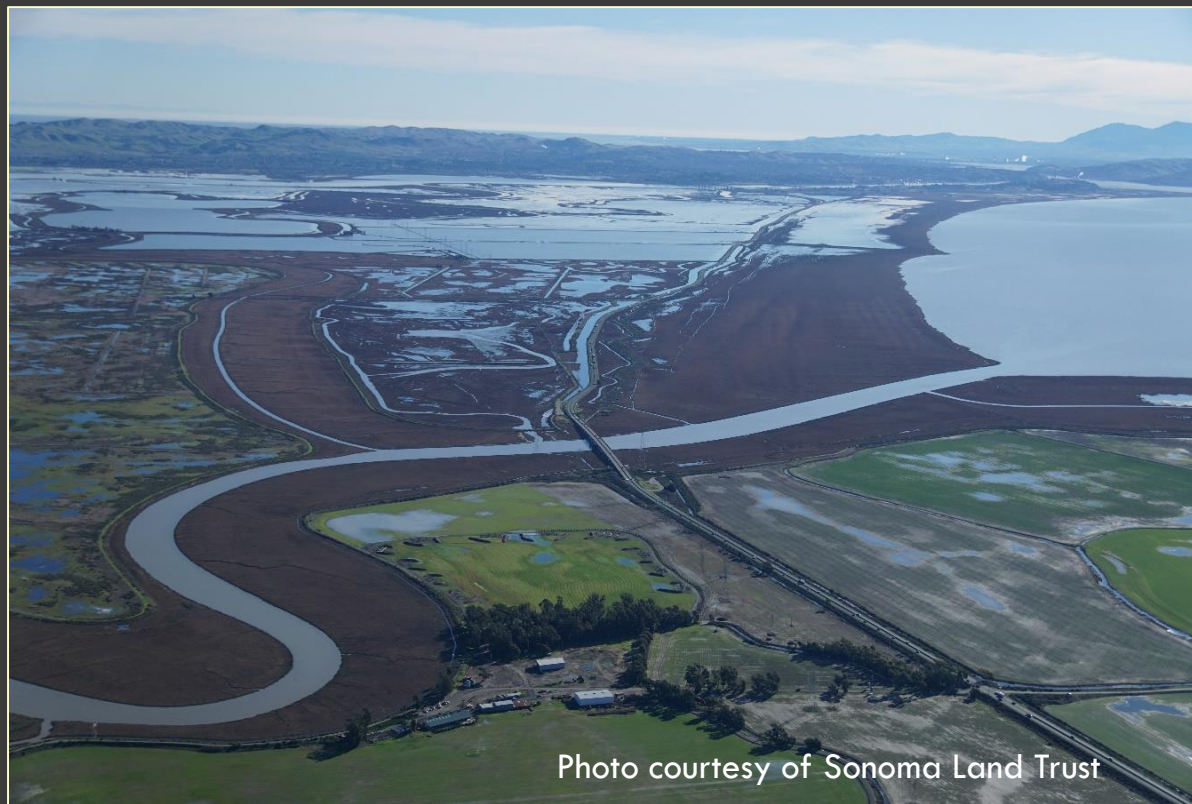


Photo courtesy of Sonoma Land Trust

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State Route 37-Baylands Group  
November 28, 2018**



# Presentation Outline

- State Route (SR) 37-Baylands Group: Who We Are
- Vision Statement and Progress to Date
- What We've Heard & Learned: Baylands Group's Perspective
- Resilient by Design: The Grand Bayway





## **SR 37-Baylands Group formed in June 2017**

Responding to accelerated action due to flooding by the SR 37 Policy Committee (local officials)



Photo courtesy of The Press Democrat

# SR 37-Baylands Group: Who We Are

- North Bay wetland land managers
- Ecological restoration practitioners, and
- Other stakeholders with a long-term interest in the conservation and restoration of the San Pablo Baylands



Photo courtesy of Ducks Unlimited



## State Coastal Conservancy's Role

- Long-term funder of San Pablo Baylands restoration
- Coordinator of the SR 37-Baylands Group
- Promoting collaboration with transportation and regulatory agencies
- Funded Baylands Goals Science Update 2015



## **Vision: Integrate, Don't Mitigate**

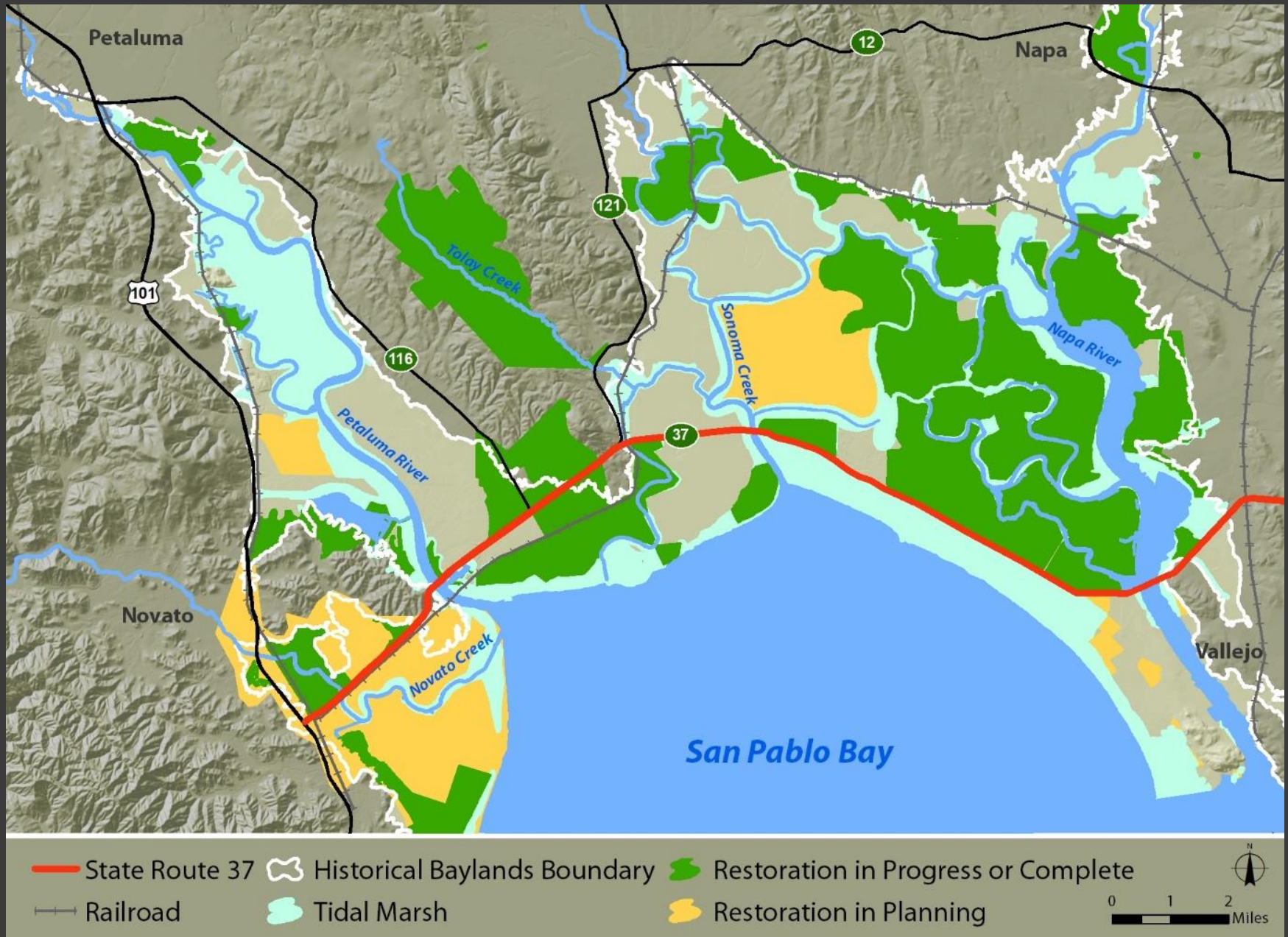
Integrate **infrastructure improvements** for SR 37 with existing and future **habitat** planning, conservation and restoration to ensure **healthy ecosystem function** and **resilience** to landscape scale change of the San Pablo Bay.

# Baylands Goals are the Blueprint





# Restoration to Date and Planned





# TODAY

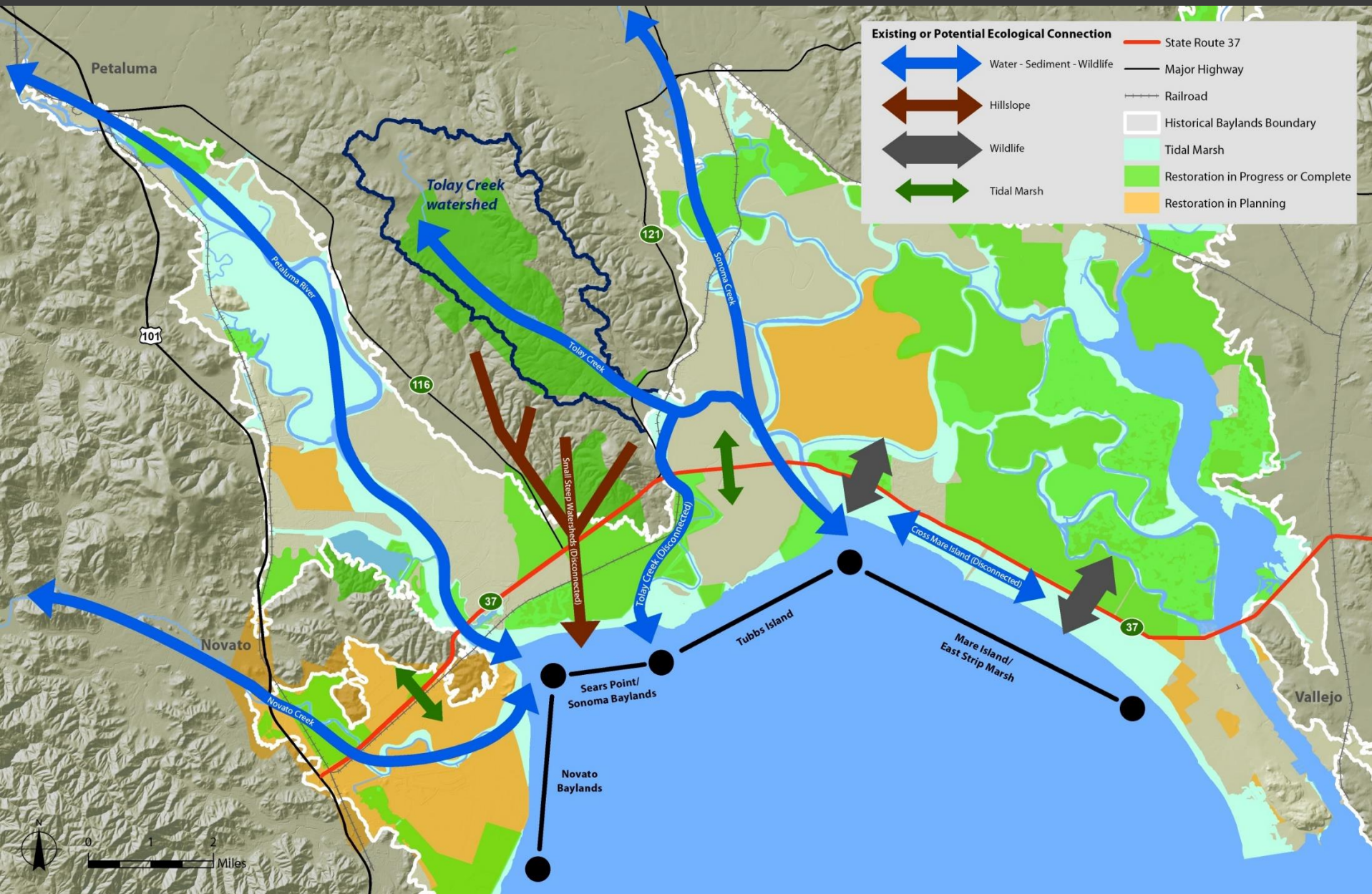
- SR 37 elevation at or just above sea level
- Mostly within San Pablo Baylands historical marshes
- Surrounded by ~30,000 acres of protected and restored habitat
- Investment in ecosystem exceeds \$600 million for conservation and restoration

***Baylands Goals, 2015:***  
**“Elevate Highway 37...**  
**to allow the full passage of**  
**sediment, water and wildlife.”**





# Improve Ecological Connectivity



# From Uplands To The Bay





# **Avoid or Minimize Direct Impacts To Habitats And Wildlife**



# SR 37-Baylands Group: Progress to Date and Next Steps

Aug. – Oct.  
2017

Developed  
white paper and  
commented on  
Draft Corridor  
Plan

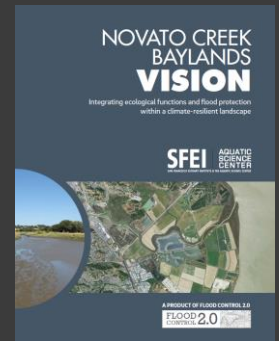
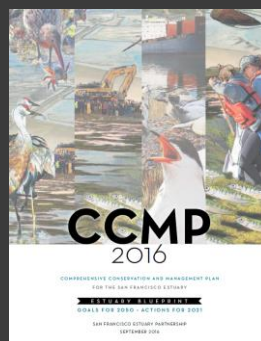
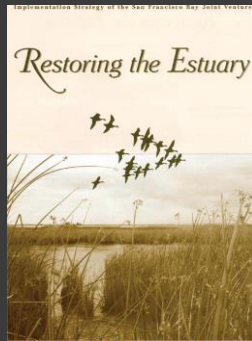
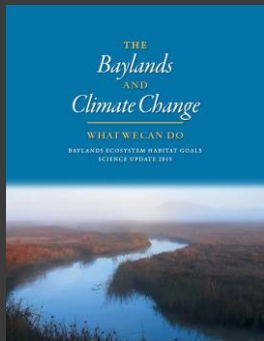
Oct. 2017 – Oct. 2018

Collaboration with  
transportation agencies on:

- 1) Redesign of middle  
section (Segment B)
- 2) Development of  
alternative alignments for  
the whole corridor

**Expected Outcomes:**

- 1) Transportation  
options that support  
habitat restoration  
and sea level rise  
adaptation
- 2) Improved  
alternatives for CEQA  
process

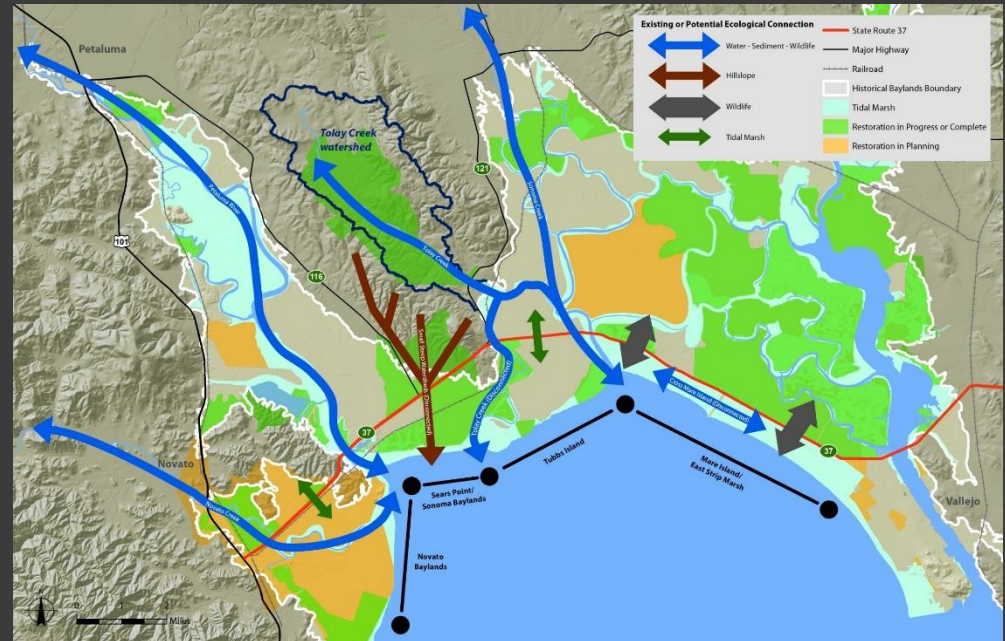




# What We've Heard, What We've Learned

## Ecological Restoration Needs

- Lengthen Bridges to Accommodate Increased Flow of Water and Sediment
- Elevate Road to Benefit Tidal Marsh and Wildlife
- Maintain Flexibility to Allow for Future Restoration Opportunities



## What We've Heard, What We've Learned

# Access Needs

- Provide Access to Local Roads
- Provide Access for Recreation
- Expand the Bay Trail





# What We've Heard, What We've Learned

## Transportation Design Considerations

- Avoid Reliance on Surrounding Landowners' Levees to Keep the Road Dry
- Coordinate with SMART Rail Line
- Provide Congestion Relief in the Near Term
- Consider Alternative Alignments for the Long Term



# Evolution of the SR 37 Project/Program Purpose



## PROGRAM PURPOSE

DELIVER A CORRIDOR PROGRAM THAT RESULTS IN COMMUNITY BENEFITS FOR ALL



Sea Level Rise  
Adaptation

Improve resiliency of transportation infrastructure to sea level rise and flooding



Transportation

Improve traffic flow and peak travel times by relieving congestion and increasing person throughput



Equity

Enhance the quality of life for residents and build stronger local and regional economy for all



Ecology

Restore ecological and hydrologic flows to enhance productivity of wetlands and Baylands



Public Access

Provide accommodation for multimodal use and facilitate public access to natural resources

**RESILIENTSR37**

Source: State Route 37 Resilient Corridor Program, Metropolitan Transportation Commission-Led Team, November 8, 2018



# Success: MTC-Led Team Agrees to Analyze Alternative Alignments

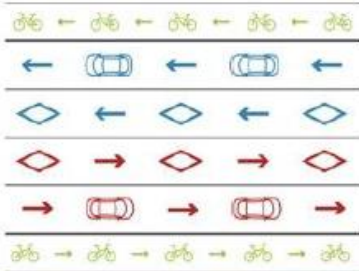
## DESIGN ALTERNATIVES FOR SEGMENT B SLR ADAPTATION PROJECT



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### Alt 1: 4-Lane Highway:

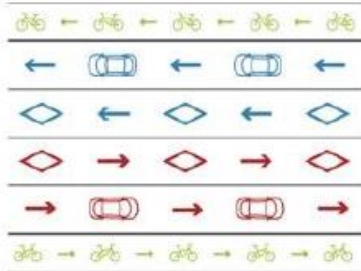
Combination of Causeway and Embankment Adjacent to Existing Roadway



Source: MIG, 2018

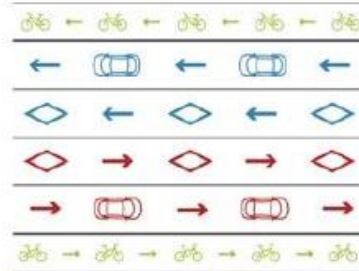
### Alt 2: 4-Lane Causeway:

Adjacent to Existing Roadway



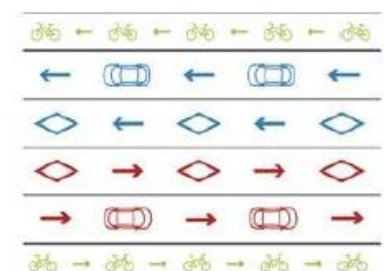
### Alt 3: 4-Lane Highway near SMART (Northern Alignment)

Uses Land Along Future SMART Route



### Alt 4 & 5: 4-Lane Causeway in the Bay (Southern Alignments 1 & 2)

Connecting Mare Island and US 101 or SR 37 (SR 37 maintained as is)



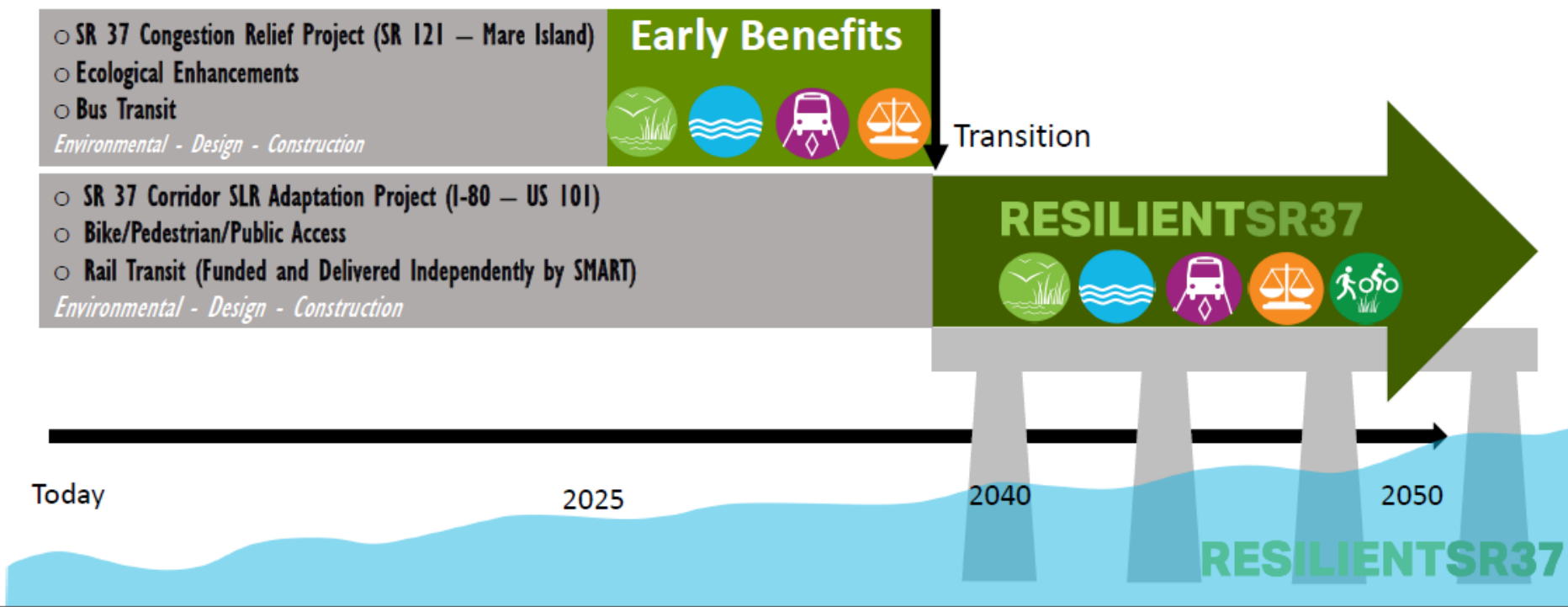
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Source: State Route 37 Resilient Corridor Program, Metropolitan Transportation Commission-Led Team, November 8, 2018

# Shifting Focus: Phase 1 = Adding Lanes, New Tolay Creek Bridge (?)

## SR 37 RESILIENT CORRIDOR PROGRAM — PHASED IMPLEMENTATION

CONCURRENT PROJECT DEVELOPMENT. DELIVER EARLY COMMUNITY BENEFITS.





# **Resilient by Design: Common Ground Team Project**

- Focused on middle segment of Highway 37 and Baylands
- MTC, CMAs, and Baylands Group members participated



**The Grand Bayway**

# The Grand Bayway: Road Design Principles

- “Prioritize elevated causeway structure
- Improve habitat and hydrologic connectivity
- Respond to intrinsic qualities of the landscape (reduce visual dominance)
- Make an iconic front door to baylands open space.”





# Coming Soon: SR 37 Public Access Scoping Process

- **FUNDING:** \$200K Caltrans Grant to Bay Area Regional Collaborative to fund follow-up work related the Resilient by Design Challenge.
- **CONSULTING TEAM:** Members of Team Common Ground, which developed the Grand Bayway proposal, and other partners will develop a *State Route 37 Public Access Scoping Report*.
- **PARTICIPATION:** Baylands Group members and others will be invited to advise the consulting team in developing public access options to be analyzed in future SR 37 environmental documents.



# Thank You!



Photo courtesy of Ducks Unlimited